

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 OMB-01 OES-06 /072 W
-----140610Z 019634 /20

R 120900Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1087
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 HELSINKI 0497

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, FI
SUBJECT: SIX FINNISH POLITICAL PARTIES SIGN APPEAL SUPPORTING
REELECTION OF PRESIDENT KEKKONEN

REF: HELSINKI 0334 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: SIX PARTIES SUPPORTING PRES KEKKONEN'S REELECTION
SIGN APPEAL TO CITIZENS CALLING FOR DEMONSTRATION OF THEIR
SUPPORT OF FINNISH FOREIGN POLICY BY HIS REELECTION.
KEKKONEN STATES THERE REMAINS MUCH "UNDONE WORK" IN
FINNISH/SOVIET RELATIONS. SIX PARTY APPEAL INCLUDES REFERENCE
TO FINNISH NEUTRALITY, AN ISSUE WHICH CREATED FRICTION WITHIN
FINNISH COMMUNIST PARTY (SKP). KEKKONEN GIVES INTERVIEW
TO TASS ON FINNISH FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS. END SUMMARY
BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

2. WITH UNCERTAINTIES CONCERNING METHOD OF PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION CLARIFIED (BARRING SOME EMERGENCY) BY LAST MONTH'S
DEVELOPMENTS (REFTEL), THE SIX PARTIES SUPPORTING PRES
KEKKONEN'S REELECTION HAVE PREPARED A JOINT STATEMENT
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OR APPEAL IN SUPPORT OF PRES KEKKONEN'S REELECTION.
THE APPEAL WAS AGREED TO THIS WEEK AND WAS SIGNED IN
PUBLIC CEREMONY MARCH 10. THE SIX PARTIES WHICH SUPPORT
KEKKONEN'S REELECTION ARE SOCIAL DEMONCRATIC PARTY,
CONSERVATIVE PARTY, CENTER PARTY, LIBERAL PARTY,
COMMUNIST PARTY, AND SWEDISH PEOPLE'S PARTY.

3. BASICALLY, THE SIX-PARTY JOINT APPEAL EMPHASIZES NEED FOR CONTINUITY IN FINLAND'S INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOREIGN POLICY AND STATES THAT PRES KEKKONEN'S REELECTION IS NECESSARY FOR THAT CONTINUITY. JOINT APPEAL DESCRIBES DEVELOPING OF GOOD AND CONFIDENTIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN FINLAND AND SOVIET UNION AS MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION IN FINNISH FOREIGN POLICY LINE. IT STATES THAT ATTACKS AGAINST FOREIGN POLICY LINE AND THE FOUNDATION OF THAT LINE, THE 1948 FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE PACT (FCMA) WITH SOVIET UNION, MUST BE DETERMINEDLY REPELLED.

4. KEY PHRASE OF APPEAL STATES: QTE THE PAASIKIVI-KEKKONEN LINE OF FOREIGN POLICY, WHICH HAS FCMA PACT BETWEEN FINLAND AND SOVIET UNION AS ITS FIRM FOUNDATION, CREATES FRAMEWORK FOR PURSUING OF PEACE-LOVING ACTIVE POLICY OF NEUTRALITY IN FAVOR OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY IN FUTURE ALSO. UNQTE

5. STATEMENT GOES ON TO SAY THAT EXTENSIVE RECOGNITION RECEIVED BY FINLAND'S FOREIGN POLICY HAS STRENGTHENED FINLAND'S INTERNATIONAL POSITION AND CONTRIBUTED TO COUNTRY'S MULTI-FACETED WORK AS MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. IT STATES THAT FINLAND'S POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO REDUCING INTERNATIONAL TENSION ENCOURAGES FINLAND TO CONTINUE TO ACT AS PIONEERS FOR PROMOTION OF COOPERATION BETWEEN STATES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIO-POLITICAL SYSTEMS.

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6. PRES KEKKONEN IN ACCEPTING APPEAL AT SIGNING CEREMONY ACKNOWLEDGED HE WILL SOON BE 77 YEARS OLD AND UNDERSTANDS CONCERNS OF SOME THAT PERHAPS A YOUNGER MAN SHOULD ASSUME PRESIDENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES; BUT HE WENT ON THAT HE HAS IMPRESSION FINLAND STILL HAS A LOT OF UNDONE WORK IN RELATIONS BETWEEN FINLAND AND SOVIET UNION. HE SAID THAT ON GROUNDS OF HIS EXPERIENCE HE FEELS HE HAS SOME POSSIBILITIES OF PROMOTING EXPANDING COOPERATION WITH SOVIET UNION, AND THIS FEELING LEADS TO HIS AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE IN OFFICE.

7. RATHER ENIGMATICALLY, KEKKONEN SAID WHEN ONE HAS TO MAKE BIG DECISIONS IN TIMES LIKE THIS, ONE MUST REMEMBER THAT NOTHING IS CERTAIN IN ADVANCE, STATING HE DID NOT BY ANY MEANS WANT TO TAKE AWAY OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK FROM THAT PERSON WHO WILL HANDLE OFFICE OF PRES OF REPUBLIC IN CONNECTION WITH HIS (KEKKONEN'S) MOVING ON.

8. IN SEPARATE BUT RELATED DEVELOPMENT FINNISH PRESS
MARCH 11 REPRINTED EXCERPTS FROM TASS INTERVIEW BY
PRES KEKKONEN IN WHICH, AMONG OTHER SUBJECTS, KEKKONEN
REFERRED TO EVIDENCE OF DEEPENING FINNISH/SOVIET
RELATIONS SHOWN BY COMING VISIT OF KOSYGIN TO FINLAND
LATER THIS MONTH AND HIS OWN PROJECTED VISIT TO SOVIET

UNION. HE EMPHASIZED HISTORICAL CONNECTION BETWEEN
SOVIET OCTOBER REVOLUTION AND FINNISH INDEPENDENCE.
HE SAID FINLAND DOES NOT VIEW IMPLEMENTATION OF CSCE AS
PRESENTING ANY PROBLEMS TO FINLAND. HE STRESSED
MILITARY DETENTE SHOULD ACCOMPANY POLITICAL
DETENTE. FINALLY, HE SAID THAT FINLAND CONSIDERS
"VERY IMPORTANT" THE WARSAW PACT PROPOSAL FOR NON-FIRST
USE BY CSCE SIGNATORIES OF ATOMIC WEAPONS.
END UNCLASSIFIED.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 HELSINKI 0497

9. COMMENT: PHRASE REFERRING TO FINNISH NEUTRALITY
(PARA 4) WAS CAUSE OF VIGOROUS INTERNAL DISPUTE WITHIN
SKP: HARDLINE TAISTOIST FACTION HAD STRONGLY OBJECTED
TO USE OF WORD "NEUTRALITY," AND ITS PRESS ORGAN
TIEDONANTAJA HAD SAID EDITORIALY DURING THE WEEK THAT
USE OF THE PHRASE INCONSISTENT WITH 1948 FCMA TREATY.
THIS HAS BEEN IN RECENT YEARS A CONSISTENT POSITION
OF TAISTOIST FACTION AND ITS NEWSPAPER. HOWEVER, SKP
POLITICAL COMMITTEE AFTER HOT DEBATE FINALLY APPROVED
APPEAL BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, AS TAISTOISTS APPARENTLY
DID NOT WANT THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE NEUTRALITY PHRASE

TO BE CONSIDERED AS OPPOSITION TO PRES KEKKONEN'S
REELECTION. INTERESTINGLY, SKP CHAIRMAN AARNE SAARINEN,
HEAD OF SKP MODERATE MAJORITY WING, ASKED RHETORICAL
QUESTION IN SIGNING CEREMONY, WHY CAN'T HE
ALSO SIGN THE APPEAL BECAUSE COMRADE PODGORNÝ (SOVIET
PRESIDENT PODGORNÝ) HAS ALSO DONE IT. SAARINEN'S
UNSPECIFIED REFERENCE WAS TO OFFICIAL JOINT FINNISH/
SOVIET COMMUNIQUE ISSUED IN 1973 (76 HELSINKI 1970)
FOLLOWING PODGORNÝ VISIT TO FINLAND. GIVEN CURRENT
CONCERN AND UNCERTAINTY WITHIN SOME FINNISH CIRCLES
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CONCERNING FINNISH NEUTRALITY, INCLUSION OF WORD AND
CONCEPT OF NEUTRALITY IN BROAD SIX-PARTY ELECTION
APPEAL IS SIGNIFICANT. HOWEVER, QUESTION MUST ALSO BE
ASKED TO WHAT EXTENT TAISTOIST LINE HINTS AT SOVIET
SENSITIVITIES CONCERNING INTERPRETATIONS OF NEUTRALITY
WITHIN SOME FINNISH CIRCLES. WHILE STOPPING SHORT OF
STATING THAT TO OPPOSE PRES KEKKONEN IS TO OPPOSE
FINLAND'S FOREIGN POLICY, THE APPEAL'S LINKAGE
OF KEKKONEN'S REELECTION AND SUPPORT FOR FINLAND'S
FOREIGN POLICY IS CLEAR THROUGHOUT DOCUMENT.

10. WITH RESPECT TO TASS INTERVIEW, KEKKONEN'S DESCRIP-
TION OF WARSAW PACT PROPOSAL OF NON-FIRST USE OF UNCLEAR
WEAPONS PLEDGE BY CSCE SIGNATORIES AS "VERY IMPORTANT"
APPEARS TO GO BEYOND PREVIOUS FINNISH RESERVE ON THIS
QUESTION.
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